Non-Plan grants provided by the Government to UGC have been steadily increasing over the years. UGC has appointed a Committee to evolve rational norms for providing development and maintenance grants to the Central Universities. Meanwhile, Chairman, UGC, has advised the Central Universities, Deemed Universities and Delhi Colleges, in March, 1993, to make efforts to reduce avoidable expenditure and augment internal income wherever possible.

According to the information furnished by UGC, paucity of funds may affect some developmental activities of the institutions, but the basic facilities are not likely to be affected. However, it will not lead to commercialisation of higher education.

DUAL POLICY FOR COTTON FARMERS

*332. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the current year's cotton crop is likely to be greater than that of 1992-93;

(b) to what extent the cotton growers' interest will be kept in mind when the issue of price is discussed;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate a policy or formula which will allow the cotton farmers to aim for only the international market;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to frame a dual policy for cotton farmers which would include cotton crop exclusively earmarked for exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No, Sir. The Cotton crop during 1993-94 is going to be marginally loss than that during 1992-93.

(b) The Government gives maximum weightage to the interest of cotton growers while fixing its minimum support price.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

RISE IN SUGAR PRICE

@ *333. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar price is continuing to rise and is unlikely to remain under control unless adequate imports are arranged if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) wheher it is also a fact that the sugar production in the country has considerably declined in the last four years; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to contain the rise in price of sugar and for increasing sugar production in the country to avoid imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) There has been marginal rise in the price of sugar in recent months. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of sugar which was 200.9 for August, 1993 remained stable in September 93 at 200.9 and marginally increased to 203.2 for October, 93. The WPI as on 27-11-1993 was 207.1. Steps are being taken to maintain sugar prices at reasonable levels. The requirement for import, if any, will depend upon the production for the current sugar season 1993-94, for which firm indications will be available by February/March, 1994.

@*Previously Starred Question No. 253, transferred from 20th December, 1993.

(b) The production of sugar during the last four years has been as under :—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Sugar Year	Production	
1989-90	109.89	
1990-91	120.47	
1991-92	134.11	
1992-93	106.09	
1993-94	9.90	(Provisional)
(upto 30-11-73) 0		

Sugar production after reaching a record level of 134.11 lakh tonnes in 1991-92 started declining in 1992-93 due to fall in sugarcane area|production, mainly on account of adverse climatic factors, accumulation of huge cane price arrears, diversion of cane area to other remunerative crops, diversion of available sugarcane to the gur and khandsari sector etc.

(c) *Steps taken by the Government to contain the rise in price of sugar* :

(i) Adequate quantities of freesale sugar are being released each month.

(ii) The State Governments have been requested to strictly enforce the various regulatory orders pertaining to sugar dealers in respect of stock holding limits, tournover of stocks by traders within the prescribed time limit, sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another wholesaler etc. They have also been requested to carry out periodical surprise raids to check unlawful trade practices.

(iii) Apart from ensuring sale|despatch of monthly freesale quota within the validity period by the end of the month, sugar mills have also been directed to ensure sale|despatch of 47.5 per cent of their quota during each fortnight.

(iv) All the State Governments have been requested to ensure regular and timely distribution of levy sugar in order to ensure adequate availability through the Public Distribution System.

Steps taken by the Government to increase sugar Production :

(i) Announcement of early crushing incentives to sugar factories in the form of higher freesale quota at 72 percent, as against the normal entitlement of 60 percent, for the production achieved during the period 1-10-1993 to 15-11-1993.

(ii) Announcement of mid-crushing incentives to sugar factories in the form of higher freesale quota at 80 percent, as against the normal entitlement of 60 percent, for the incremental sugar production to be achieved during the period 1-1-1994 to 30-4-1994 over the sugar production during the same period of 1992-93 season.

(iii) Announcement of late crushing incentives to sugar factories in the form of higher freesale quota at 72 percent, as against the normal entitlement of 60 percent, for the production to be achieved during the period 1-5-1994 to 31-7-1994.

(iv) Finance Ministry|Reserve Bank have been requested to provide need-based credit to the sugar industry during the 1993-94 season.

(v) State Governments have been requested to ensure prompt clearance of cane price dues to the farmers by the sugar factories.

(vi) Enhancement of loan component for grant of Sugar Development Fund assistance for KT Weirs and lift irrigation schemes.

(vii) Announcement of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1993-94 season at Rs. 34.50 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent as against Rs. 31/- per quintal for 1992-93 season. An advance announcement of SMP for 1994-95 season has also been made at Rs. 37/- per quintal, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

(viii) The incentive scheme for new sugar factories and expansion projects has been suitably revised.

(ix) State Governments have been requested to consider imposition of restrictions or gur and khandsari units prohibiting their operation before 31-12-1993 so as make available more proportion of cane to the sugar mill sector.

देश में चीनी पर लगाये गए उपस्कर की वसूली

*334. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में प्रत्येक चीनी मिल में उत्पादित चीनी पर उपकर लिया जाता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि उपकर की यह राशि चीनी की उपभोक्ता कीमत तय करते समय चीनी के उत्पादन-लागत मूल्य जोड़ दी जाती है और कीमत बढ़ा कर उपभोक्ताओं से वसूल की जाती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या यह भी सच है कि इस प्रकार वसूल की गई राशि को चीनी मिलों के आधुनिकीकरण, उनके अनुसंधान कार्य और गन्ना विकास हेतु ऋण और अनुदान के रूप में चीनी मिलों को ही दे दिया जाता है ।

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) : (क) जी, हां। समय-समय पर यथा संशोधित चीनी उपकर अधिनियम, 1982 में भारत में प्रत्येक चीनी फैक्ट्री द्वारा उत्पादित समस्त चीनी पर 14.00 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल का उपस्कर लगाने और उसे एकत्रित करने का प्रावधान है ।

(ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) चीनी उपकर अधिनियम से अधीन लगाए गए और एकत्रित किए गए उपकर की राशि में से केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा यथा निश्चित एकत्रण लागत को घटाकर निकली राशि और इस अधिनियम के प्रयोजन हेतु केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास प्राप्त हुई अन्य राशियां संसद द्वारा किए गए यथा विनियोजन के बाद चीनी विकास निधि में जमा करवाई जाती है ।

केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा चीनी विकास निधि का निम्नलिखित के लिए प्रयोग किया जा सकता है:-

(1) किसी चीनी फैक्ट्री के पुनर्स्थापन और आधुनिकीकरण के लिए ऋण देना ;

(2) उस क्षेत्र में, जहां कोई चीनी फैक्ट्री स्थित है, गन्ने का विकास करने के लिए किसी योजना को आरम्भ करने के लिए ऋण देना ;

(3) किसी अनुसंधान परियोजना, जिसका उद्देश्य चीनी उद्योग का विकास करना हो, के प्रयोजन के लिए अनुदान देना ;

(4) चीनी का बफर स्टाक बनाने तथा उसका अनुरक्षण करने के प्रयोजन के लिए खर्च की अदायगी करना ताकि चीनी के मूल्य स्थिर रखे जा सकें ;

(5) अधिनियम के प्रयोजन के लिए किसी अन्य खर्च की अदायगी करना ।

OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER ON THE AFFAIRS OF K.V.S.

*335. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received recently any Open Letter to the Prime